



Department of State *File 27 Camb*
TELEGRAM
141
R

CONFIDENTIAL 324

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01011 241555Z

42
ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 NEA-13 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03
RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 UPW-01 IO-13 RSR-01 /117 W
----- 011896

O R 241105Z MAY 70 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 900
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION UN
CINCPAC 211
DIA WASHDC
RHMSMVA/COMUSMACV
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
RHMUABA/SEVENTH/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>Finkley</i>	DATE <i>10/9/80</i>
RD	DEEXT. DATE
TS	REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 1011

1 CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

32
CONFIDENTIAL

Phnom Penh 1011
5-24-70



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01011 241555Z

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SITREP

1. POLITICAL COMMENTARY BY CAMBODIAN RADIO DISCUSSES DEMONSTRATIONS OF PAST WEEK IN US IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ASIAN POLICY. COMMENTARY TOOK PARTICULAR NOTE OF FACT THAT DEMONSTRATORS WERE WORKING CLASS PEOPLE "ATTEMPTING TO EXPRESS THEIR POLITICAL SENTIMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLICY...AGAINST VC AMBITIONS IN INDO-CHINA." COMMENTARY STATES THAT FOR YEARS HANOI HAS BELIEVED THAT A SECTOR OF US PUBLIC OPINION WAS FAVORABLE TO NVN, AND THEREFORE THAT THE US PUBLIC WOULD TIRE OF THE WAR. THIS SECTOR OF PUBLIC OPINION, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH ALSO SERVED TO BOLSTER NVN'S MORALE, IS ONLY A MINORITY: "A MINORITY COMPRISED OF EXCITABLE YOUTH WITH LONG HAIR" AND SELF-SERVING "DOVES" MORE CONCERNED WITH POLITICS THAN THE NATION'S HIGHER INTEREST. THE COMMENTARY FURTHER NOTED THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES WHICH PERMIT THE MINORITY TO EXPRESS ITS OPINIONS.

2. COMMENTARY STATES THAT THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS, CUT OFF FROM OUTSIDE REALITY, ARE MISTAKEN IN THINKING OF THE "CAMPUS BATTLEERS" AS BEING REPRESENTATIVE OF US OPINION AND THEREFORE CAPABLE OF TURNING US PUBLIC OPINION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THE SILENT MAJORITY OF WORKERS WHO BEING "ATTACHED TO LIBERTY" WILL NOT TOLERATE THE IMPOSITION OF AN "ODIOUS" SYSTEM OF COMMUNISM ON THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION.

3. EMBASSY TOLD BY MEMBERS CBS CAMERA TEAM WHO TRAVELLED FROM TAKEO NORTH, THEY WERE STOPPED TWICE ON ROAD TO PHNOM PENH BY NVA. ON FIRST OCCASION TROOPS PERMITTED TEAM TO CONTINUE ON. ON SECOND OCCASION, 23 KMS NORTH OF TAKEO, NEWSMEN FORCED TO DISMOUNT AND WERE BEING MARCHED OFF WHEN NVA OFFICER STOPPED AND INTERROGATED GROUP. OFFICER THEN PERMITTED TEAM TO CONTINUE THEIR TRIP WITH WARNING THAT THEY CLEAR OUT OF AREA FAST.

4. AKP OF MAY 23 PUBLISHED BANGKOK WORLD AFP ARTICLE WHICH REPORTS AIR MARSHAL DAWE CHULASAPYA AS HAVING PRESENTED TO US AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK REQUEST FOR INCREASE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM US. INCREASE, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, WILL PERMIT THAILAND TO ASSIST CAMBODIA.

ARTICLE NOTES FONMIN THANAT SUBSEQUENTLY QUALIFIED DAWE'S STATEMENT THAT THAILAND WILL FURNISH ARMS, MUNITIONS AND MATERIEL, WITH STATEMENT THAT US FURNISHED ARMS WOULD NOT BE SENT TO CAMBODIA BUT ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01011 241557Z

"WAR MATERIEL" WHICH BELONGS TO THAILAND.

5. OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN OFFICIAL VISIT OF GOC FONMIN YEM SAMBAUR TO RVN, THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY A CAMBODIAN SINCE 1960, APPARENTLY WILL COMMENCE MAY 25 INSTEAD OF JUNE 1, AS REPORTED EARLIER. GVN CONVINCED GOC AT LAST MINUTE THAT VISIT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED. GOC WAS BLUNTLY TOLD THAT HIGH LEVEL THAI DELEGATION COULD CHANGE ITS PLANS IN DEFERENCE TO RVN. COMMENT: GVN APPARENTLY HAS BEEN MIFFED BY CAMBODIAN HESITANCE RAPIDLY TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GVN PONTIFICATING IN LIGHT OF IMPORTANT GVN ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA.

6. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF CIRCULAR NOTE 487/DGP/FNL FROM GOC DESCRIBING VC/NVA DEPREDATIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF KOMPONG SPEU, TAKEO, KAMPOT DURING PERIOD MAY 16-17. COPY OF NOTE POUCHED.

7. AKP MAY 24 PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE CONCERNING THE PRESENT ECONOMIC PICTURE IN CAMBODIA. COMMUNIQUE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE ENEMY HAS DISRUPTED ECONOMIC LIFE IN THE EAST AND SOUTH, AND THAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SABOTAGE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT BY FORCING PEOPLE TO USE THE OLD ISSUE 500 RIEL NOTES. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS OBSERVED, THE ENEMY'S COUNTERFEITING HAS FAILED AND THE BALANCE OF THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO OPERATE NORMALLY.

(A) THE COMMUNIQUE FURTHER NOTES THAT THE EXCELLENT 1969/70 RICE CROP WAS MARKETING BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. MOREOVER, AVAILABLE STOCKS OF RUBBER AND RICE STORED IN PREY VENG AND KOMPONG CHAM WERE MOVED TO PHNOM PENH BEFORE THE AREA BECAME INSECURE. MOST OF THE DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING APPARATUS REMAINS IN GOVERNMENT HANDS AND THAT IMPORTERS AND PRODUCERS OF NECESSARY GOODS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO STOCK UP ON ITEMS TO SERVE THE ARMY AND CONSUMING PUBLIC.

(B) EXPORT AND URGENT IMPORT CONTINUES, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES, DESPITE MOBILIZATION OF ALL TRANSPORT. KOMPONGSOMVILLE AND ITS CONNECTING HIGHWAY ROUTE 4 ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. COMMENT: THIS LATTER FACT IS ATTESTED TO MAY 24 BY A US BUSINESSMAN WHO TOLD EMBASSY HE TRAVELLED WITHOUT INCIDENT TO KOMPONGSOMVILLE AND SURROUNDING REGION.)

(C) EXPORT FIGURES FOR 1970 ARE FORECASTED IN REALM OF 5 BILLION RIELS WITH HALF COMING FROM RICE SALES. (SALES AS OF JAN TO APRIL ARE 1.1 BILLION RIELS OF 21 PERCENT OF PLAN AND CONTRACTS ARE IN HAND FOR A FURTHER 1.5 BILLION RIELS IN EXPORT PRODUCTS.) IT IS HOPED, THE MINISTRY STATES, THAT THE EXPORT PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT TOO

CONFIDENTIAL



DECLASSIFIED
Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 01011 241555Z

MUCH DISLOCATION.

(D) THE IMPORT PROGRAM (NOT COUNTING MILITARY SUPPLIES) FOR 1970 WAS ENVISAGED AT LEVEL 3.7 BILLION RIELS WITH IMPORT JAN-APRIL 30 REACHING 797 MILLION RIELS. GENERAL TENOR OF BALANCE OF COMMUNIQUE IS OPTIMISTIC NOTING THAT DISLOCATION INEVITABLE BUT ENDURABLE AND HOPEFULLY OF SHORT DURATION. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, IT IS NOTED, WILL BE ASSISTED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WILL GIVE CAMBODIA GREAT ASSISTANCE IN REDRESSING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

8. GOC PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE DATED MAY 22 NOTING THAT BANDITS WEARING MILITARY AND POLICE UNIFORMS HAVE BEEN ATTACKING AND ROBBING BOTH CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE INHABITANTS. COMMUNIQUE INDICATES, STARTING FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION, THAT TO PRESERVE LAW AND ORDER AS WELL AS TO PROTECT THE NATION'S REPUTATION, SEVERE MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE GUILTY PARTIES.

9. ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS HAS PUBLISHED MISE AU POINT CORRECTING AFP STORY BASED ON MILITARY BRIEFER'S STATEMENT OF MAY 21 THAT "CAMBODIANS WOULD RATHER DIE THAN REMAIN UNDER VIETNAMESE DOMINATION" (PHNOM PENH 983 FARA 16). BRIEFER HIMSELF PUBLISHED STATEMENT CORRECTING "MISINTERPRETATION" OF HIS STATEMENT. BRIEFER (MAJOR AM RONG) WRITES THAT CAMBODIA HAS FOUGHT LONG AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION AND CAMBODIA DOES NOT INTEND TO QUIT NOW BEFORE THE VC/NVA. AM RONG DENIES THE AFP ALLEGATION THAT HE, AM RONG, HAD ALLUDED NEGATIVELY TO THE PRESENCE OF FRIENDLY FORCES.

10. MILITARY COMMUNIQUE DATED MAY 23 INDICATES ENEMY PRESSURE HAS LESSENED IN PROVINCES OF KOMPONG CHAM, KANDAL, TAKEO AND KAMPOT. FANK AND "FRIENDLY FORCES" DESCRIBED AS SWEEPING AREAS WEST OF TAKEO AND VICINITY OF PHNOM CHISOR. EASTERN KAMPOT (BORDERING RVN) IS DESCRIBED AS CLEAR OF THE ENEMY AND ENEMY APPARATUS DISMANTLED.

11. COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT FRIENDLY FORCES CONTINUE TO RUN SWEEP OPERATIONS IN KOMPONG CHAM TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE WHILE "FRIENDLY FORCES" OPERATE IN THE CHUP PLANTATION AND NOAT KHMONG AREAS. THE ENEMY IS DESCRIBED AS BEING FORCED TO EVACUATE HIS HEAVY EQUIPMENT TOWARDS THE INTERIOR, PARTICULARLY THE NORTHEAST, WHERE HE WILL CACHE ARMS AND REORGANIZE HIS TROOPS.

12. DATT INFORMED MAY 24 THAT DURING NIGHT MAY 23/24 5TH MILITARY REGION COMMAND POST IN LABANSIEK, RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE, ATTACKED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 01011 241555Z

BY UNKNOWN SIZED ENEMY FORCE. ONLY DETAILS AVAILABLE AT TIME OF
SITREP WAS THAT SENIOR FANK OFFICER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND EVACUATED.
THIS IS THE FIRST ATTACK ON LABANSIEK IN CURRENT HOSTILITIES.
RIVES

CONFIDENTIAL